

MEETING AGENDA

COMMITTEE ON AWARDS FOR INNOVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

September 16, 2014

1:00 pm

State Capitol

Room 112

Sacramento, California 95814

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Chair's Report
- III. Agenda Items

Item A: Overview of the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education—Information

Item B: Delegation of Authority to the Department of Finance—Action

Item C: Approval of Form of Application and Application Ranking Criteria—Action

Item D: Schedule of Future Meetings—Action

- IV. Public Comment
- V. Adjournment

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This agenda is posted at <http://www.dof.ca.gov/innovationawards/>.

For additional information or responses to questions, please contact:

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The meeting will be streamed live at <http://senate.ca.gov/watch/112-video>.

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ITEM A: Overview of the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education

For Information Only

Summary:

Committee staff will provide an overview of the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education program. This item is presented for the committee's information.

Background:

The Budget Act of 2014 appropriates \$50 million in one-time General Fund resources for the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education. The program recognizes California community colleges, California State University (CSU) campuses, and University of California (UC) campuses that change existing policies, practices, or systems to achieve the following priorities:

- Significantly increase the number of bachelor's degrees awarded.
- Allow students to complete bachelor's degrees within four years after beginning higher education.
- Ease transfer through the state's education system by better recognizing learning that occurs across the state's education segments and elsewhere.

Any California community college, CSU campus, or UC campus may submit, individually or as part of a group, an application for an award to the Director of Finance until January 9, 2015.

A committee has been convened to select which applicants receive awards and determine the amount of those awards. The committee consists of the following members: the Director of Finance or his designee, who serves as the committee's chairperson; a member of the State Board of Education selected by the Governor; a member of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors selected by the Governor; a CSU trustee selected by the Governor; a UC regent selected by the Governor; an appointee of the Senate Committee on Rules; and an appointee of the Assembly Speaker.

These awards will be made based on the extent to which the changes described in the applications address the following criteria:

- *Alignment:* The extent to which the changes credibly achieve the program's priorities at a lower cost than existing policies, practices, and systems, without requiring that students pay increased tuition or fees.
- *Scale:* The extent to which the changes involve broad participation by UC campuses, CSU campuses, community colleges, and local education agencies, including school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, and can be replicated by other campuses.
- *Commitment:* The extent to which the campuses show commitment to achieving the program's priorities, as evidenced by changes made on or after January 10, 2014; the likelihood that any planned changes would be implemented; the support of faculty, students, and other individuals and groups involved in or impacted by these changes; and the ability to sustain changes over the long-term.

Committee staff anticipates recommending that no award be less than \$2.5 million, and depending on the number of applications received and their rankings, staff may recommend tiers of award levels. As a condition of receiving an award, a campus or group selected for an award will be required to report on how the funds will be used and commit to reporting to the Director of Finance about the effectiveness of its changes. Use of the funds must be approved by the committee before the Director of Finance may distribute an award to that campus or group. To gain approval, those plans will need to show how funds will be used for one-time purposes and related to the priorities of this program.

This approach differs from that of a traditional grant program. Rather than submitting a proposal that describes the actions a campus would take if it were to receive funding, the program expects a campus to have already taken actions in order to apply and to commit to making future changes as part of the application process. These awards are not intended to support the costs of implementing changes or to fund ongoing costs of any new programs. Therefore, the amount of funds included in an award will not be directly linked to the costs a campus incurs to make any changes. Instead, the available funds will be awarded based on the extent to which the selected campuses address program criteria.

Pursuant to provisions of the Budget Act, the Director of Finance must release these funds no later than June 30, 2015. Any remaining balance of the appropriation will revert to the General Fund after that date.

ITEM B: Delegation of Authority to the Department of Finance

For Committee Action

Summary:

Staff recommends that the committee delegate authority to the Department of Finance to serve as staff to the committee and to provide legal counsel.

Background:

Pursuant to provisions of the Budget Act of 2014, the Director of Finance is responsible for major components of program implementation. Specifically, the statute authorizes the Director of Finance to convene a selection committee; serve as chair of this committee; receive applications for awards; and release funds to campuses once the committee has approved plans related to use of those funds. Given these roles, the Department of Finance has served as staff to the committee during initial implementation.

These staff functions will be performed by the department using existing resources.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the following actions:

1. The committee designates the appropriate employees of the Department of Finance, as determined by the Director of Finance, as staff to the committee for all purposes, including for the purposes of preparing recommendations for committee action.
2. The committee designates the Chief Counsel and each staff counsel employed by the Department of Finance as legal counsel to the committee.

ITEM C: Approval of Form of Application and Application Ranking Criteria

For Committee Action

Summary:

Staff recommends that the committee approve application instructions included in Addendum 1. It is also recommended that the committee approve the application ranking criteria set forth below and included in Addendum 1. If the committee approves this recommendation, final application instructions will be posted on the program website, and distributed to those who have signed up for the program mailing list, following this meeting.

Background:

Pursuant to provisions of the Budget Act of 2014, campuses seeking an award are required to submit an application to the Director of Finance no later than January 9, 2015.

Award applications must be coordinated by a representative of a UC campus, a CSU campus, or a community college, with the concurrence of the chief executive officer of that institution. Any other UC campus, CSU campus, or community college, as well as any K-12 local education agency or private institution of higher education, may participate in the application. The coordinating institution will be responsible for distributing funds included in an award as approved by the committee.

The proposed form of application instructions, included as Addendum 1 to this item, requires a written narrative response to a set of items that will facilitate comparisons across applications. The instructions ask for information intended to help the committee understand what innovations the applicant is making to achieve the program's priorities, how the applicant is making those changes, what goals the applicant expects to achieve, and the sustainability of the changes.

Submitted applications will be made available publicly before the next committee meeting. Prior to this meeting, staff will evaluate and rank the submitted applications using the criteria articulated in the Budget Act and the statements about the qualities of a strong application included in the proposed application instructions. The items in the application instructions are grouped into four sections: Context, Innovations, Sustainability, and Evaluation. Staff will rank submitted applications based the following order of priorities, giving more weight to the top priority and less to the subsequent priorities:

- (1) Innovations section: top priority
- (2) Sustainability section: second priority
- (3) Context section: third priority
- (4) Evaluation section fourth priority

The agenda for the next committee meeting will include an item presenting award recommendations for the committee's consideration and approval.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the following action:

1. Approval of the form of application instructions included as Addendum 1 to Item C of the agenda for the committee's meeting on September 16, 2014, and authority for staff to take any necessary actions or make technical edits or corrections to the form of application consistent with the committee's action. It is also recommended that the committee approve the application ranking criteria included in Addendum 1.

ITEM D: Approval of Schedule of Future Meetings

For Committee Action

Summary:

Staff recommends approval of the dates for the committee's subsequent meetings, as follows:

- Friday, March 20, 2015.
- Monday, April 27, 2015.
- Friday, May 22, 2015, if necessary.

These meetings will be held in Sacramento.

Background:

Given the committee's responsibilities pursuant to the Budget Act of 2014, the Director of Finance plans to convene the committee for at least two additional meetings, as follows:

- At the March 20 meeting, staff intends to present recommendations for which applicants should receive awards and the amount of those awards for approval by the committee.
- At the April 27 meeting, staff intends to present for committee approval the reports submitted by selected award recipients regarding how they will use the award funds.

Staff recommends tentatively scheduling a meeting on May 22, 2015. The Director of Finance would convene that meeting only as necessary to allow the committee to fulfill its statutory responsibilities.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education approve the proposed meeting schedule:

1. The committee will meet in Sacramento on the following dates: March 20, 2015; April 27, 2015; and May 22, 2015, if necessary.